

An ice climber negotiates the frozen waterfall at Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon. Snow is expected for Christmas.

12-23-00



President-elect Bush has nominated New Jersey Gov. Christie Todd Whitman as administrator of the EPA.

in the end, it will be up to Bush to set the nation's priorities on the environment. As good as Whitman could be, she will only be allowed to do what her boss wants, LeGate said.

"Bush could have done a lot worse," said David Orr with the Glen Canyon Action Network in Moab. "Most environmentalists are taking a wait-and-see attitude with a lot of caution."

Whitman, 54, will head an agency loathed by many in Utah for its

she retained needed protections but eliminated red tape. That will be a welcome message to Utah's congressional delegation, which has long criticized EPA over its relentless enforcement of technical rules and regulations while failing to achieve environmental objectives.

But her record has environmentalists uneasy. "All of us are on pins and needles," said Kathy Van Dame with the Wasatch Clean Air Coalition.

Still, "It doesn't sound like anyone is getting any heartburn over her," Van Dame said.

The president-elect praised Whitman as someone who goes "beyond the old, central command mind-set that believes that Washington has all the answers" and someone who has shown her ability to protect air, soil and shoreline in a densely populated state.

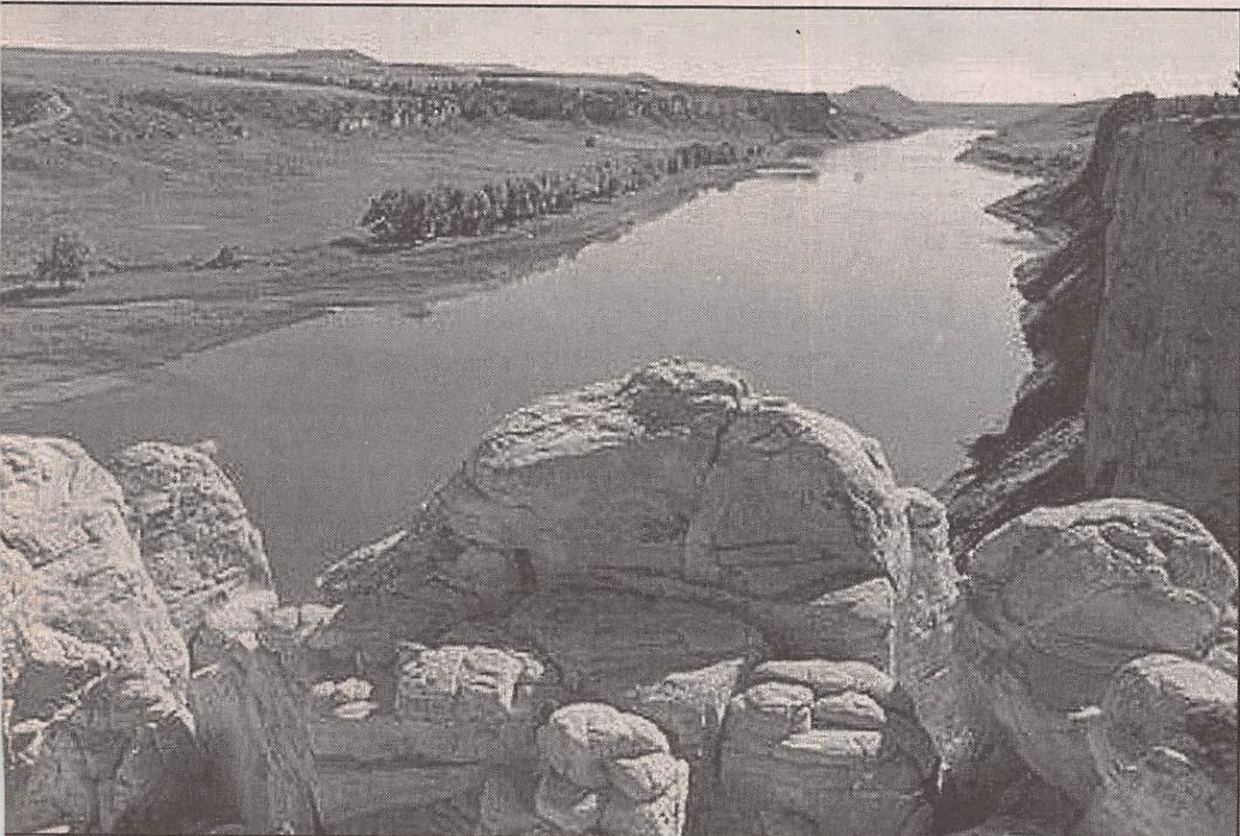
Contributing: New York Times News Service

West's unprecedented prosperity to the poor.

The debt-relief program, announced Friday by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is a victory for an eclectic coalition of religious organizations, celebrities and watchdog groups that pressured wealthy nations and international lenders to help the poor cope with globalization.

Many of the people in the countries granted debt relief — all in Africa and Latin America — live on \$1 a day or less. Charity groups have argued that it is both economically inefficient and morally wrong to require the governments of such countries to devote large portions of their revenue to paying back foreign lenders.

The push for debt relief began in Europe the mid-1990s and grew steadily through this year, when a worldwide protest campaign per-



Missouri River in north-central Montana are included in areas that are recommended to be part of new national monuments.

Commending 5 more monuments

Also included are one of the last remaining swaths of pristine grassland in central California and two areas of coral reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"These natural landscapes are unique, historic American treasures," Babbitt said in a statement. "They need more care and protection than we are giving them now."

Monument designations would give greater protection to the five

of acres, mostly in the West. The monuments are designed to be part of Clinton's environmental legacy, which also includes an order this month giving greater protection to 99,500 square nautical miles of coral reefs and other features off the coast of Hawaii.

Critics — including President-elect Bush — call Clinton's actions unnecessary and unilateral, though they acknowledge that overturning

"It's not a land grab. These are federal lands to begin with, so you can't really grab them," said David Alberswerth of The Wilderness Society.

Babbitt's action Friday does not ensure that the areas will be given monument status, though Clinton has not rejected any Babbitt monument recommendation so far. Friday's recommendations do not include areas in Arizona and New